

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Housing and Environment
DATE	25 th April 2014
DIRECTOR	Peter Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Implementation of the approved recommendations of the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) assessment of the Aberdeen Scientific Services Laboratory (ASSL).
REPORT NUMBER:	H&E/04/044

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update committee on the status of UKAS accreditation and the progress of recommendations of assessment of the Aberdeen Scientific Services Laboratory.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the committee (i) notes the work being undertaken to implement and develop the recommendations of the 26th and 27th March 2014 UKAS surveillance report; (ii) approves the continuation of accreditation as a license to operate.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimate of expenditure required by UKAS to maintain the 4 year accreditation cycle (2012 – 2015) is £24,500.

The estimate of the expenditure, including laboratory staff time, required by the Council to allow ASSL to maintain accreditation and implement recommendations over the same period is £57,000.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

ASSL requires accreditation to standard ISO/IEC 17025:2005 (Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration laboratories) in order to fulfill its statutory requirements as an Official Food and Feed Control Laboratory, as defined by the Food Standards Agency (Scotland). Accreditation to this standard is a license to operate.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

ASSL continues as one of the highest ranked Official Control Laboratories in the UK, successfully maintaining accreditation since 1993 (the longest successful accreditation of any Scottish Official Control Laboratory).

In 2011 ASSL was reassessed in order to enter a new 4 year cycle of accreditation (2012-2015). On 26th and 27th March 2014 the third, highly successful, surveillance visit of the accreditation cycle took place.

UKAS surveillance assessments are all encompassing audits of ASSL's operating and technical practices. Work undertaken by the Laboratory, including the implementation of the Quality Management System, are assessed against the ISO standard criteria, Food Standard Agency and Drinking Water Inspectorate guidelines.

As legislative and technical amendments are made accreditation requirements adapt to reflect and accommodate best practice. As such, the UKAS technical assessors make annual reports on surveillance visits of ASSL. The findings of the 2014 surveillance assessment are attached in Appendix A for reference.

6. IMPACT

The content of this report is in line with the general aims of "Aberdeen - "A Smarter City".

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Section 6.5.1 of the current service level agreements with Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council and Moray Council state that "The Provider shall perform the analysis and examination of samples consistently and accurately according to recognised procedures. These procedures will be validated regularly by both UKAS/DWTS accreditation and assessment, and by internal quality assessment procedures." Failure to acquire, and maintain, UKAS/DWTS accreditation would mean that the laboratory would be unable to provide an analytical service, which currently accounts for 85% of the income of the laboratory, to these local authorities.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

A copy of the 26th and 27th March 2014 UKAS surveillance visit report is included in appendix A for reference.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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Appendix A

Recommendations from the March 2014 surveillance visit for laboratory 1325 (5464) Aberdeen City Council Aberdeen Scientific Services Laboratory, pages 1 to 15.

Please double click on assessment report below to review complete report.

United Kingdom Accreditation Service

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ASSESSMENT REPORT

Name & Address of Organisation	Aberdeen City Council Aberdeen Scientific Services Laboratory Old Aberdeen House Dunbar Street Aberdeen AB24 3UJ	Type of Assessment	Accreditation - Surveillance
		UKAS Reference Number	5464 1325
		Date(s) of Assessment	26/03/2014- 27/03/2014
Assessment Location(s)	Old Aberdeen House Dunbar Street Aberdeen AB24 1UJ	Project references	201162-02-03
Assessment Standard / Criteria	ISO/IEC 17025: 2005 - Testing Laboratory	Schedule Issue No(s)	032
Name & Role of UKAS Assessment Team	Assessment Manager: Peter Rooney Technical Assessors: Peter Whittle Andrew Jervis Lee Humpheson	Date(s) of Assessment Plan	07/03/2014
		No. of (M) Findings: Action Mandatory	32
Name of Organisation Representative(s)	James Darroch	No. of (M) Findings: Require Evidence to UKAS	26
Report Issued By	Peter Rooney	No. of (R) Findings: Action Recommended	0
Report Issued Date	28/03/2014	Method of Reviewing Evidence	Remote
Report Acknowledged By	TBA	Quote for Reviewing Evidence	0.75 Days Quote to follow
Report Acknowledged Date	TBA	Agreed Action Completion Date	02/05/2014
Report Acknowledged Method	Please acknowledge receipt of this report by email to Peter.Rooney@ukas.com	Please return evidence to AFB_CMMcustomerservice@ukas.com Quoting the UKAS Ref.No. in the subject field	